

**THE CITY OF DEXTER
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2021**

A. CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The City Council Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Mayor Keough and was held at 3515 Broad Street and online via Zoom.

B. ROLL CALL:

Sanam Arab - Present.
Paul Cousins - Present.
Donna Fisher - Present.
Jamie Griffin – Present.
Wa Hubbard - Present.
Zach Michels - Present.
Shawn Keough - Present.

Student Representatives:
Alex Gilbert – Present.
Eren Buyukbozkirli – Absent.

Also attending: Justin Breyer, City Manager and City Clerk; Michelle Aniol, Community Development Manager; Tim Stewart, Lead Utility Operator; Mike Auerbach, Assistant Planner; Robert Smith, Dexter Area Fire Department Chief; Scott Munzel, City Attorney; and residents.

C. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

1. Regular City Council Meeting – October 11, 2021

Motion Cousins; support Arab to approve the minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of October 11, 2021 with the following corrections:

- Under Consent Agenda, Identify Melissa Messer as the appointee to the Parks and Recreation Commission
- Under New Business Item 4, remove the word “next” before October 25, 2021.

Ayes: Cousins, Hubbard, Arab, Griffin, Fisher, Michels, Keough
Nays: None
Motion carries

D. PRE-ARRANGED PARTICIPATION:

Mayor Keough read a proclamation commemorating Pat Cousins.

E. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

Motion Fisher; support Griffin to approve the agenda as presented.

Ayes: Griffin, Michels, Hubbard, Fisher, Arab, Cousins, Keough

Nays: None

Motion carries

F. DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:

None

G. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

1. Ethics and Conflicts of Interest Ordinance

Consideration of: Ethics and Conflicts of Interest Ordinance

Mayor Keough opened the public hearing regarding the Ethics and Conflicts of Interest Ordinance at 7:07pm.

No comments.

Mayor Keough closed the public hearing regarding the Ethics and Conflicts of Interest Ordinance at 7:08pm.

Motion Griffin; support Michels to adopt the Ethics and Conflicts of Interest Ordinance with the following amendment:

- On page 13, Section 3, insert the word “or” so that the sentence reads “...and to encourage members of the public to seek public office, employment, or service on public boards, and to participate in the governmental process.”

Ayes: Michels, Hubbard, Cousins, Griffin, Fisher, Arab, Keough

Nays: None

Motion carries

2. Adopting Ordinance for the General Code of Ordinances

Consideration of: Adopting Ordinance for the General Code of Ordinances

Mayor Keough opened the public hearing regarding the Adopting Ordinance for the General Code of Ordinances at 7:14pm.

No comments.

Mayor Keough closed the public hearing regarding the Adopting Ordinance for the General Code of Ordinances at 7:15pm.

Motion Fisher; support Arab to adopt the Adopting Ordinance for the General Code of Ordinances with the following amendments:

- On page 22, insert the word “Hereby” so that the language reads “The City of Dexter Hereby Ordains.”
- On page 22, Section 2, change “October 25” to “November 3.”

Ayes: Fisher, Arab, Griffin, Michels, Cousins, Hubbard, Keough

Nays: None

Motion carries

H. NON-ARRANGED PARTICIPATION:

None

I. COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Upcoming Meeting List

J. REPORTS:

1. Finance Director/Treasurer/Assessor – Marie Sherry

Ms. Sherry submitted her written report as per packet. Ms. Sherry provided the following answers to Council questions:

- A question was posed about the status of tax collection. Ms. Sherry responded that the summer tax collection rate is a little lower in percentage, but not the dollar amount.
- A question was posed about critical items in her report. Ms. Sherry responded that nothing was out of the ordinary, but that state revenue sharing and local community stabilization are higher than budgeted. Ms. Sherry also indicated that interest rates on investments are not good.
- A question was posed about the receipt of the American Rescue Plan Act funds. Staff indicated that one-half of the funds have been received. Discussion followed about the potential for additional ARPA-related funds to be distributed.

2. Public Services Superintendent – Dan Schlaff

Mr. Schlaff submitted his written report as per packet. Tim Stewart, Lead Utility Operator was present to answer questions.

- A question was posed about the status of the Community Garden. Staff indicated that the poison ivy had been treated and that more leaves have been applied to the Garden.
- A question was posed about the piece of equipment called the billy goat. Staff indicated that the billy goat is used to vacuum the sidewalks downtown. Discussion followed about the recruitment of a live goat to eat poison ivy.

3. Community Development Manager – Michelle Aniol

Ms. Aniol submitted her written report as per packet.

4. Board, Commission & Other Reports

None

5. Subcommittee Reports

None

6. City Manager Report – Justin Breyer

Mr. Breyer submitted his written report as per packet. Mr. Breyer provided the following updates:

- An offer has been made to an Assistant to the City Manager candidate and Recording Secretary candidate. A question was posed about the length of time the Assistant to the City Manager position has been vacant. By the time the candidate starts, the position will have been vacant approximately one year.
- The Huron River Watershed Council is distributing their annual calendar.
- The Mill Creek Park Volunteer Day on Sunday went well.

7. Mayor Report – Shawn Keough

Mr. Keough submitted his written report as per packet. Mr. Keough provided the following update:

- A recommendation has been made to appoint Martha Gregg to the Library Board.
- The DDA authorized staff to issue an RFQ for 3045 Broad St. Discussion followed on the DDA's authority and DDA Act.
- At the last DAFD meeting, the board accepted a notice of retirement from Chief Smith.
- Recognized those that volunteered for the Mill Creek Park Volunteer Day.

8. Council Member Reports

None

K. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Consideration of: Bills & Payroll in the amount of: \$514,649.57
2. Consideration of: Appointment of Martha Gregg to the Library Board
3. Consideration of: Holiday Light Parade

Motion Fisher; support Cousins to approve items 1 - 3 of the Consent Agenda.

Ayes: Arab, Michels, Cousins, Fisher, Griffin, Hubbard, Keough

Nays: None

Motion carries

L. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - Consideration and Discussion of:

Items postponed from a previous meeting

1. Discussion of: Fire Station Guiding Principles

City Council discussed items related to the proposed Fire Station project, including:

- Proposed guiding principles and values
- Prior research and efforts on the topic
- Relationship of the City to the Dexter Area Fire Department district
- Paths to continue moving the conversation forward

M. NEW BUSINESS-Consideration and Discussion of:

1. Discussion of: Sale of Equipment

City Council discussed the following related to the sale of equipment:

- Development of a proposed new Charter amendment to permit the sale of equipment
- Whether to put forward the sale of pieces of equipment for an election
- Education related to the impact of the Charter amendment vote
- Identification of the pieces of equipment that are due, or are coming due, to be replaced

N. COUNCIL COMMENTS: (Paraphrased or summarized by City Clerk)

Gilbert: None

Cousins: Thank you for the nice proclamation.

Michels: I wanted to clarify my comment about filling the Assistant to the Manager position, that it is not a reflection on staff. It had more to with the length of time on the front-end getting the City Manager position sorted-out. I want to apologize for being a debby downer during the Fire Station discussion. It is important to explain where I am coming from. It was exhausting to educate myself about fire stations. I took time off from work to attend conferences, paid for conferences, and have toured dozens of fire stations. It is exhausting to come back and feel like you are screaming and flapping your arms in the wind.

Arab: I wanted to say thank you. I appreciated the open-mindedness of the fire station conversation. I hope that we can keep that going.

Fisher: None

Hubbard: I think that we all received the e-mail from Paul Katz, the middle school student about him having trouble crossing the street by Busch's with his classmates. Council Member Hubbard read the e-mail. Second thing is that if you are out and about on Halloween, I do it up big. There will be lots of decorations and people at my house.

Griffin: None

Keough: On a related note, I received an e-mail from a resident about the speed limit between Dan Hoey and Carrington asking why it was 50 mph. Discussion followed about reviewing the speed limit of this road segment.

O. NON-ARRANGED PARTICIPATION:

Justin Breyer discussed his Halloween plans.

P. ADJOURNMENT

Motion Fisher; support Arab to adjourn the meeting at 9:14 PM.

Unanimous voice vote approval.

Respectfully submitted,

Justin Breyer
City Manager and City Clerk

Approved for Filing: _____